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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The number of claims in this application is 11.

The Examiner has objected to claim 6 because of inadequate dependence thereof, and has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis of the limitation "the second pin". The identified defects have been corrected in the amendments to claim 6. Therefore, the Examiner's objection to, and rejection of claim 6 have been traversed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(3) as being anticipated by Bunker et al. (US patent 5,328,331). Bunker et al. disclose a coolable airfoil with a **fully enclosed internal cavity**. This is different from independent claims 1 and 7 as amended. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 7 is requested.

Claims 2-3 and amended claim 5 depend directly or indirectly from amended base claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (US patent 6,481,972). Wang et al. disclose an airfoil with a **fully enclosed internal cavity**. This is different than independent claims 1 and 7, as amended. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 7 is requested.

Claims 3-4 and amended claim 5 depend directly or indirectly from amended base claim 1, and thus are allowable for the reasons set forth above.

No new subject matter has been added.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of the notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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